

**VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2011**  
**NATIONAL LIFE BUILDING, 6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR**  
**MONTPELIER, VT**  
**9:30 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Betsy Gentile; Carl Rosenquist; Chris Keyser; Mark Young; Mary Lintermann; Nancy Port; Rachel Smith; Stephan Morse; Warren Kitzmiller.

**Staff Present:** Fred Kenney; Alice Cloud

**Others Present:** Chris Bailey, VSC; Kathy Berry, VSC; Sam Andersen, CVEDC; Curt Carter, GBIC; Seth Bowden, GBIC; Jeff Carr, EPRI.

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9:39 a.m.: Chris Keyser called the meeting to order.

Chris asked if there was any public comment. Hearing none, Chris requested Council approval of the January 27, 2011 meeting minutes with an amendment to include Jeff Carr, EPRI as also present.

9:39 a.m.: Nancy Port motioned to approve the January 27, 2011 meeting minutes. Warren Kitzmiller seconded and the motion carried 9-0-0.

9:40 a.m.: Carl Rosenquist made a motion to nominate Chris Keyser as Interim Chair. Mary Lintermann seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9:40 a.m.: Stephen Morse made a motion to close nominations. Mark Young seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9:40 a.m.: Chris Keyser asked for approval of the slate as presented by nominating committee. Motion carried unanimously.

9:41 a.m.: Chris Keyser made a motion to nominate Mary Lintermann as Interim Vice-Chair. Mark Young seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9:41 a.m.: Chris Keyser made a motion to close nominations. Betsy Gentile seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9:41 a.m.: Chris Keyser asked for approval of the slate as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris invited the applicants to join the Council for introductions.

9:44 a.m.: Mark Young motioned to enter into Executive Session and Mary Lintermann seconded. The motion carried 9-0-0.

10:28 a.m.: Betsy Gentile motioned to exit Executive Session and Warren Kitzmiller seconded. The motion carried 9-0-0.

10:30 a.m.: **Vermont Smoke and Cure**

Mary Lintermann made a motion to approve an Initial Application from Vermont Smoke and Cure, giving initial authorization of maximum incentives of up to \$89,220, with an estimated incentive of \$77,323, based on application data for activity to commence in calendar year 2011, citing a determination that the applicant met the But For and program guidelines and that the project will generate a minimum net revenue benefit of \$47,244, subject to submittal and consideration of a Final Application before December 31, 2011. Nancy Port seconded and the motion carried 9-0-0.

The Board, Sam Andersen from Central Vermont Economic development, and Cathy Berry from VSC discussed the need for more trained slaughterhouse workers and training in humane slaughter methods such as those trained and certified by Temple Grandon. What is missing is the method and system for the animal prior to slaughter. Need to get funding for this training and certification.

Stephen Morse suggested that the Board become more proactive in spurring economic development by starting with this sector. Make sure that businesses and people involved in this sector –like the seven existing slaughterhouses or others that might start slaughterhouses - are aware of the VEGI program and other programs.

Kathy Berry noted that there is a national group of foundations called the Sustainable Agriculture Group and there is a Vermont funders group. There is potential to liaison with foundations to make this a community effort between municipalities, funders, and capital providers toward a common goal.

The opportunity is with the existing slaughterhouses and prevalence the of Vermont's brand. The rest of the country wants Vermont product. They think of Vermont as purity, farming. Let's not argue with them. If we can get Vermont's brand to include humane certified, whole foods. The delivery trucks will pour into the state.

10:45 a.m.: Fred Kenney summarized a request by Pierre Simard of New England Supply, Inc. for an amendment to their Final application to change the Activity Commencement Date from June 1, 2010 to April 1, 2010. Mr. Simard states that he misunderstood the instructions.

Carl Rosenquist' moved to approve an amendment to change the Activity Commencement Date for New England Supply, Inc. from June 1, 2010 to April 1, 2010. Mary Lintermann seconded and the motion carried 9-0-0.

11:00 a.m.: Fred Kenney updated the Council about legislative actions and proposals regarding VEGI. He outlined the sunset provision, look-back provision and wage threshold provision in the Jobs Bill.

The Council discussed ideas for educational efforts for the Board and RDCs. Stephen reemphasized his thoughts that the Council and staff should more actively market the VEGI program throughout the state through education and holding meetings outside Montpelier. Fred suggested that after the legislative session, he and other staff from economic development work with the RDCs to hold economic development workshops around the state educating about all economic development programs and emphasizing any new programs or services. Nancy reminded the Council that we hear interesting ideas and issues from many companies. We should formalize a way to get those ideas to the Secretary of Commerce and others to work on them.

Fred Kenney noted to the Council that the March monthly meeting will most likely be in Burlington as he expects them to submit their TIF application by the end of next week.

11:20 a.m.: The meeting was adjourned.

*Minutes taken by Alice Cloud: **February 24, 2011***

*Revised by Fred Kenney: **March 13, 2011***

*Approved by the Board: **March 24, 2011***